

Amendment
Application No. 10/686,633
Attorney Docket No. 981491A

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application, of which claim 1 has been amended. No new claims have been added.

- (1) The specification was objected to because the title is not descriptive.

The title of the invention has been corrected in this Response.

- (2) Claims 1, 4-8 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ohyoshi. Claims 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohyoshi in view of Wakabayashi. Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohyoshi in view of Kikuchi. Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohyoshi. Claims 2, 3, 12 and 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohyoshi in view of Orbach.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the taking lens unit is disposed *right* in front on the object side of an image display section for displaying an image. The amendment is supported by e.g., Figs. 3B and 3C, which describe that the taking lens unit 11 is disposed right in front of the image display section 12.

The configuration of the present invention can reduce the thickness of the apparatus body (page 4, lines 13-23 of the specification of the present invention). Also, the electronic image pickup apparatus of the present invention can be well-balanced in the configuration in the thickness as well as the lateral dimension (page 5, lines 9-22 of the specification of the present invention).

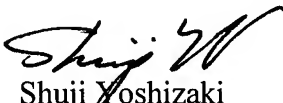
On the other hand, Ohyoshi does not disclose the claimed features of the present invention. The taking lens unit (converter unit 27) of Ohyoshi is not disposed *right* in front of the image display section (liquid crystal display panel 5). The taking lens unit (converter unit 27) of Ohyoshi is disposed in the camera unit 3, whereas the image display section (liquid crystal display panel 5) is disposed in the unit 2. In Ohyoshi, the thickness of the camera body cannot be reduced, and the configuration in the thickness and the lateral dimension cannot be well-balanced. The invention of claim 1 as amended is not anticipated by Ohyoshi.

In addition, neither of the cited references discloses the claimed features, so even a combination of the references does not make the present invention. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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(3) In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date. If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case. If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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